

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRASIL 06919 221424Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 SSO-00 SAB-02 L-01 PM-03
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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3346

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 6919

STADIS////////////////////////////////

LIMDIS - FOR ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY STEDMAN FROM CRIMMINS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, MN
SUBJ: SIGNING CEREMONY FOR PANAMA CANAL TREATY

1. THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO RPT NO CHANCE THAT PRESIDENT GEISEL WOULD ACCEPT AN INVITATION. NOT ONLY IS THE PANAMA QUESTION OF SECONDARY INTEREST TO THE GOB (ALTHOUGH IT HAS SUPPORTED PANAMA OUT OF LATIN AMERICAN SOLIDARITY) BUT ALSO GEISEL IS HARDLY DISPOSED TO DO THE USG ANY FAVORS SUCH AS THAT IMPLIED IN HIS PRESENCE AT THE CEREMONY. MOREOVER, GEISEL IN EFFECT TURNED DOWN AN INVITATION FOR AN OFFICIAL VISIT DURING THE FORD ADMINISTRATION.

2. GIVEN THE CERTAINTY OF A REFUSAL, I DO NOT INTEND TO RAISE THE QUESTION.

3. I MIGHT ADD MY OPINION THAT THE IDEA OF A CONVOCATION OF LATIN AMERICAN CHIEFS OF STATE IS A DANGEROUS ONE (BEYOND HAVING A RING OF PATERNALISM). IF AS I WOULD EXPECT, THERE WOULD BE SOME, PERHAPS MANY, SIGNIFICANT ABSENCES, THE OPPONENTS OF THE TREATY WOULD HAVE EXCELLENT AMMUNITION TO CHALLENGE THE VALIDITY OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S JUDGMENT ABOUT LATIN
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AMERICAN ATTITUDES.

4. THIS DANGER WOULD BE REDUCED SOMEWHAT, I WOULD JUDGE, IF INVITATION TO ATTEND A CEREMONY IN WASHINGTON WERE JOINT ONE BY PRESIDENT CARTER AND TORRIJOS. ALTHOUGH AT THE VERY BEST THIS MIGHT IMPROVE THE CHANCES OF GEISEL'S ACCEPTANCE SLIGHTLY, I DO NOT RPT NOT BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD CHANGE HIS

ATTITUDE. AN INVITATION BY TORRIJOS TO A CEREMONY IN PANAMA WOULD
ELICIT THE WIDEST RESPONSE IN MY OPINION, BUT I CAN WELL
UNDERSTAND WHY SUCH A SCENARIO WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR
US.
CRIMMINS

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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